

2014-2015 HONORS BIOLOGY - Course Guidelines

Blue Valley High School

Mr. Andrew Hulse

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Classroom Website: andrewhulse.weebly.com (preferred)

Teacher Website: www.bluevalleyk12.org/bvh/achulse

Course Description:

Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. This course provides an opportunity for students to develop scientific processing skills, critical thinking and problem solving skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Students will explore biological science as a process, basic biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and taxonomy, as well as the diversity of living organisms and their varied ecological roles.

Classroom Expectations:

- **Be on time, be respectful, and be prepared to learn...**
This means in your seat, with proper materials out, and ready to learn at the time the bell rings. Students will be expected to respect the teacher, their peers, student property, school property, and classroom property. Respect the golden rule: *Treat others the way you want to be treated...*
- Each class will begin with a Daily Check-Up/Opening Activity reviewing previously covered unit material– it is expected you complete the activity within the first 3-5 minutes of class
- If absent, it is *your responsibility* to acquire any missed notes, handouts, assignments, and/or directions. Make sure to check the class website/daily blog and to ask your peers about any missed information.
- Missed labs must be made up within one week, regardless of the number of days you are absent. If this is not possible, an alternative assignment will be given to be completed outside of class.
- If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it is expected you turn in the assignment when you return
- Any problems meeting classroom expectations will result in an opportunity to discuss a plan of action with me outside of class time

Classroom Rules:

- All electronic devices (cell phone, iPod/mp3, iPad/laptop, etc) need to be put away for the duration of the class. If any of these devices are a distraction, they will be taken for the class period. There will be a few opportunities throughout the year where you may be permitted, and even encouraged (quizzes/activities/research/etc), to use your personal electronic device. *This is at teacher discretion.*
- Please use appropriate language at all times – this includes both class and peer conversations
- Respect your peers and their opinions, teachers, personal property, and school property

- Food is NOT allowed in the classroom. Drinks may be allowed so long as they do not create a distraction and are in a container with a sealed lid.
- Please leave the classroom cleaner than when you arrived
- The school's tardy policy will be enforced:
 - 1st and 2nd tardy will result in a warning
 - 3rd tardy will result in a referral to an administrator
 - 4th tardy will result in three (3) lunch detentions
- Any problems meeting classroom rules will result in an opportunity to discuss a plan of action with me outside of class time

Materials:

- 2" three-ring notebook with dividers (recommended) *OR* a 5 Subject College Ruled Notebook with folders to store handouts and tests/quizzes. We will have 9 units throughout the year.
- College Ruled Notebook paper for notes and activities
- Writing Utensils – pen and/or pencil
- Colored Pencils – a simple 12 pack of pencils will work great
- *Index Cards – not required but students have found them helpful for vocabulary*

Grading Policy:

A 100 - 90	<u>Weighted Grade Breakdown</u>	
B 89 - 80	Assessments:	60 %
C 79 - 70	Honors Work	20 %
D 69 - 60	Lab activities, daily assignments, etc.	20 %
F < 60		

The fall and spring semester finals are cumulative and will be worth 20% of your overall semester grade. It is important you keep up to date with daily assignments, daily check-ups, and projects. **Retakes will be required for any student scoring below a 70% on an assessment.** This retake will be permitted once the student has completed any missing assignments, received at least a 70% on a minimum 5 practice tests on Quia, and thoroughly completed assessment corrections. Simply writing the correct answer does not constitute a correction... You must demonstrate *how* you know this is the correct answer demonstrating a *growth in knowledge*. The retake must be completed within two weeks of receiving scores. Students will have the opportunity to complete their retake either after school on Wednesdays during TCB or before school on Thursdays in the testing room.

All retakes will replace the score of the original attempt up to 100%

Safety:

- Laboratory safety is extremely important
- Do not play with, eat, or drink any material that is used during a lab.
- Wash hands after each lab.
- **Warning:** Contacts can increase the amount of possible damage should a chemical get in your eye. Wear them at your own risk. Safety goggles will be used with potentially dangerous chemicals.
- You will be given one warning for violating safety procedures. An additional violation will result in a removal from the lab and the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment for 50% credit. (Paper regarding Safety Procedures!)

Academic Honesty:

- The school's plagiarism policy will be enforced.
- Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying materials without properly citing them, paraphrasing material without appropriate acknowledgement for the original author, or failing to complete a works cited when required.
- **CHEATING:** Cheating on an Assessment or Assignment will result in disciplinary action. You will receive a zero for the assignment, your parents will be contacted, and the administration will be notified. Assessments will be set up in such a manner as to prevent cheating if at all possible. Cheating also includes copying another student's homework, labs, or projects. If you are having trouble with the homework or lab you may work with other people, but don't simply copy their work. Try it on your own first, and then seek the help of your peers and Mr. Hulse.

You get points for trying!

Topics to be Covered:**First Semester**

- Unit 1 – Chemistry of Life
- Unit 2 – Cell Structure and Function
- Unit 3 – Conservation of Matter and Energy
- Unit 4 – Cellular Reproduction

Second Semester

- Unit 5 – Molecular Genetics
- Unit 6 – Classical Genetics
- Unit 7 – Ecology
- Unit 8 – Evolution and Natural Selection
- Unit 9 – Human Environmental Impacts

First Semester Finals: December 17-19, 2014

Second Semester Finals: May 21-23, 2014

Disclaimer:

Overall, my goal with this class is to have fun learning about the living environment and organisms that surround us each and every day. I'm here to help you all learn and succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Let's have a great year working together!

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived...

- Henry David Thoreau

